

Filed for intro on 02/02/2000

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 577
By Springer

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ottis Knippers, Sr.
former state legislator from Lawrenceburg.

WHEREAS, on January 24th, 2000, former state legislator Ottis Knippers, Sr. of Lawrenceburg departed from this life for a far better existence; and

WHEREAS, Ottis Knippers was born in Sabin Parish, Louisiana, in 1913; and

WHEREAS, from his experiences as a businessman, and as a veteran of World War II, Mr. Knippers knew the meaning of hard work, and he always championed the right causes, and fought for the greater good; and

WHEREAS, an effective politician and proficient public servant who remained true to his roots, Ottis Knippers served for eight years as County Judge of Lawrence County; and

WHEREAS, during his august tenure in the Tennessee General Assembly, he served with distinction as a member of the House of Representatives for six years, and as a Senator for four years; and

WHEREAS, during his meritorious service in the Tennessee General Assembly,

SJR0577

01024083

Mr. Knippers successfully sponsored legislation which worked for the greater good of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, he served astutely as Chair of the Senate Education Committee; and

WHEREAS, Senator/Representative Knippers let his radiant disposition shine through in other avenues in addition to the political arena; and

WHEREAS, he was renowned for his excellent work as a gospel singer and songwriter, having worked with the former Vaughn Music Company of Lawrenceburg; he also performed as a member of the Vaughn Radio Quartet; and

WHEREAS, his numerous talents were acclaimed in the church, for he was a lay leader in the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Ottis Knippers was honored as Lay Leader of the Year in the Tennessee Conference in 1998; and

WHEREAS, for seventy years, he appeared on Tennessee radio, including eight radio stations in Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Ottis Knippers always kept abreast of the issues that affected his community and the State of Tennessee; his political interests led him to seek election to the Tennessee General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, during his exemplary tenure in his various careers, Senator/Representative Knippers worked with purpose, determination and intelligence; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Knippers was a valuable member of numerous organizations and civic clubs; and

WHEREAS, the sterling legacy Senator Knippers leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by his friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his wife, Opal Moody Knippers and his children Ottis Knippers, Jr., Dr. Jan Knippers Black, Nancy Knippers Wilbanks, and his brothers, Dr. Cecil Knippers, Colonel Shural Knippers, Harold Knippers, sister Lora Lee Dunkin, his seven

grandchildren, as well as the members of the General Assembly, both past and present, and his many friends and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, even as we mourn the irreplaceable loss of Ottis Knippers, Sr., we must give thanks that Tennessee has benefited so greatly from his experience, his probity and expertise, his generosity and compassion, and his unwavering commitment to this state and each of his fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we pause to express our gratitude for the bountiful life of The Honorable Ottis J. Knippers, Sr. and honor his memory, and his many selfless contributions to Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy and extend our condolences to Mr. Knipper's family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the Knipper family with this final clause omitted from such copy.